



October 2011

Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection

Ronald Farr
State Fire Marshal

Bureau of Fire Services
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Where has the summer gone?

It's hard to believe that October is already here and fire departments across Michigan are busy finalizing plans for Fire Prevention Week activities. Many agencies have scheduled department Open Houses while others have scheduled visits to area schools and businesses to bring home the message on the importance of fire safety and knowing what to do in the event a fire breaks out. As we promote good fire safety behavior we should strive to make sure that all homes have a least one working smoke alarm.

On Saturday, September 17, 2011, I had the honor of speaking at the Michigan Firemen's Memorial in Roscommon. The day was crisp and clear as members of the fire service gathered to honor fire fighters who have passed away . . . including those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. All those honored had served their respective departments with commitment, honor, dedication, dignity, and a passion for being a member of the fire service. Each honored firefighter was a hero in their own way and we are fortunate to have had so many who put aside their personal agendas to selflessly serve their community. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the Michigan Firemen's Memorial, I encourage you to do so. I wish to extend my gratitude to all who have contributed many hours of labor, money and love to make this memorial a magnificent site.

Be safe.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Farr
State Fire Marshal

MISSION

The mission of the State Fire Marshal and the Bureau of Fire Services is to protect lives and property by fostering a fire safe environment through inspections, plan review, enforcement, regulation, fire fighter training, data collection and public fire education.

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FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

Protect Your Family from Fire

Fire Prevention Week | October 9-15, 2011

**Focus on Fire Safety: Protect Your Family from Fire**

Fires can strike anywhere – in structures, buildings, automobiles, and the outdoors – but fires that affect our homes are often the most tragic and the most preventable. **Over 75% percent of all fire fatalities occur in home fires.**

This year's [National Fire Prevention Week](#) theme is "**Protect Your Family from Fire.**" You can protect your family by:



1. Installing smoke alarms on every level of your home,
2. Testing smoke alarms once a month,
3. Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, and
4. Making and practicing a home fire escape plan.

Families can dramatically increase their chances of surviving a fire simply by installing and maintaining working smoke alarms.

A. Smoke Alarms

Fires can occur in a variety of ways and in any room of your home. But no matter where or how, having a smoke alarm is the first key step towards your family's safety. A smoke alarm stands guard around the clock and, when it first senses smoke, it sounds a shrill alarm. This often allows a family the precious but limited time it takes to escape.

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms are considered to be one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire and could reduce the risk of dying from a fire in your home by almost half.

[Learn About Smoke Alarms »](#)

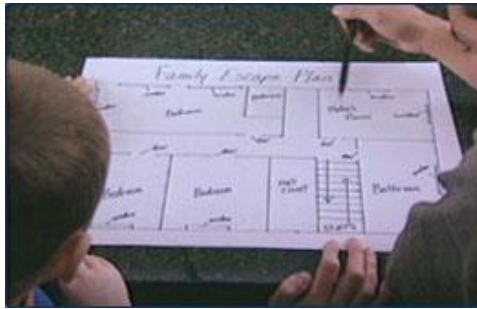
B. Residential Fire Sprinklers

Smoke alarms can only alert you and your family to a fire in the home – they cannot contain or extinguish a fire. Residential sprinkler systems can!

Using quick response sprinklers and approved piping, homes can be built or even retrofitted to include low-cost automatic sprinkler systems connected to the domestic water supply.

Most importantly, sprinklers give occupants extra time to escape from a burning home.

[Learn About Residential Fire Sprinklers »](#)



Children as young as three years old can follow a fire escape plan they have practiced often. Yet, many families don't have detailed escape plans, and those that do usually don't practice them.

C. *Escape Plans*

In the event of a fire, remember – time is the biggest enemy and every second counts! Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire.

It is important to:

- Practice your escape plan every month.
- Plan two ways out of every room.
- Leave your home when a fire occurs.
- Designate a meeting place away from your home.
- Get out and stay out! Never return to a burning building!

[Learn How to Make an Escape Plan »](#)

D. *Fire Extinguishers*

The use of a fire extinguisher in the hands of a trained adult can be a life and property saving tool. However, a majority of adults have not had fire extinguisher training and may not know how and when to use them. Fire extinguisher use requires a sound decision making process and training on their proper use and maintenance.

[How to Decide If and When You Should Use a Fire Extinguisher »](#)

Sound Decision Making. Training. Maintenance.

All are required to safely control a fire with an extinguisher. For this reason, USFA recommends that only those trained in the proper use and maintenance of fire extinguishers consider using them when appropriate.

E. *Home Fire Prevention Tips*

You can prevent the loss of life and property resulting from fire by being able to identify potential hazards and following the safety tips below.

- [Smoking »](#)
- [Bedrooms »](#)
- [Cooking »](#)
- [Heating »](#)
- [Electrical Appliances »](#)

USFA Releases Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings Report

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853

EMMITSBURG, MD — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the characteristics of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings. The report, *Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings* (PDF, 1.0 Mb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is based on 2007 to 2009 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

According to the report:

- Ninety-one percent of all civilian fatalities in residential building fires involve thermal burns and smoke inhalation.
- **Bedrooms (55 percent) are the leading location** where civilian fire fatalities occur in residential buildings.
- Fifty-one percent of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. This period also accounts for 49 percent of fatal fires.
- Seventy percent of fire victims in residential buildings were escaping (36 percent) or sleeping (34 percent) at the time of their deaths.
- **Smoking was the leading cause** of fatal residential building fires.
- Males accounted for 57 percent of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings; women accounted for 43 percent of the fatalities.
- Approximately 43 percent of civilian fatalities in residential building fires are between the ages of 40 and 69.
- Thirteen percent of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings were less than 10 years old.

Fires that affect our homes are often the most tragic and the most preventable. This September, as our nation marks the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 and the eighth annual observance of [National Preparedness Month](#), FEMA encourages all Americans to prepare for emergencies – including home fire emergencies. “By preparing for a home fire emergency, you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty,” said Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. “Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, test them once a month, change the batteries at least once a year, and make and practice a home fire escape plan.”

Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings is part of the Topical Fire Report Series. Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the U.S. Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

Michigan News...

Appointments Made to State Fire Safety Board

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011

LANSING, Mich. - Gov. Rick Snyder today appointed John Enkemann Jr., Donald Hicks, Dr. Ralph Hodek, Richard Miller, Cassandra Renneberg and Leslie Rodwell to the State Fire Safety Board.

The board develops fire safety rules covering the construction, operation and maintenance of schools, health care facilities, prisons, state owned and leased facilities and other public buildings.

"The appointees will provide the board with their experience, talents and skill. I look forward to their support in continuing to ensure Michigan's public buildings and workers are properly equipped for fire safety," Snyder said.

Enkemann, of Northville, is executive vice president and chief operating officer at Albert Kahn Associates, Inc. in Detroit. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the International Code Council, and previously served on the Michigan Board of Architects. He earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Lawrence Technological University. Enkemann will represent architects and replaces Jacqueline Hoist.

Hicks, of Freeland, is the senior loss prevention engineer for the Dow Corning Corporation in Midland. He previously worked for Industrial Risk Insurers and Belk Store Services in Charlotte, NC. Hicks earned a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina. He will represent the chemical manufacturing industry and fills a vacancy.

Hodek, of Houghton, is an associate professor of civil engineering at Michigan Technological University. He is a past chair of the Michigan Board of Professional Engineers and a previous member of the Michigan Board of Land Surveyors. Hodek earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, a master's degree from Michigan Tech and a PhD in geotechnical engineering from Purdue University. He will represent professional engineers and replaces Earl Howard.

Miller, of Dearborn, is the fire chief for the City of Dearborn. He earned an associate's degree in fire science from Henry Ford Community College, and a bachelor's degree in fire science and occupational safety and health from Madonna University. Miller will represent fire departments in the Lower Peninsula and replaces Charles Prichett.

Renneberg, of Riverdale, is the co-owner of Riverdale Tavern Inc., where she has worked for 31 years. She is a member and vice president of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association. Renneberg will represent individuals who own a place of public assemblage and replaces Gerald Smith.

Rodwell, of Howell, is deputy chief and fire marshal for the Howell Area Fire Department. He previously served as a patrolman and firearms instructor for the city of Howell Police Department. Rodwell also serves as a fire service instructor and state certified fire inspector for the state of Michigan. He completed professional development programs administered through Lansing Community College, the Oakland Police Academy, Michigan State University, and the Michigan State Police. Rodwell will represent fire departments in the Lower Peninsula and replaces James Dundas.

The appointees will serve four-year terms expiring July 15, 2015. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Flashover Dangers and Training

by Robert A. Elizondo and Bill Cockerline, Oakland Community College



Photo Courtesy of Fire Tactics .com

Firefighters face many challenges throughout their careers. Firefighting is a physically and mentally demanding job that requires a person to maintain composure, discipline, safety, and physical ability while operating in very dangerous conditions. At any moment a firefighter may be called upon to battle a structure fire to protect a citizen's property or even save a life. Once the alarm sounds, firefighters must rely on their training and experiences to keep them safe while battling blazing fires and other hazardous emergencies.

In the United States, 118 firefighters were killed and 36,595 were injured in the line of duty in 2008. Of those who were killed, more than 30 of them died as a result of a flashover. Simply put, a flashover is the spontaneous ignition of all combustible products, primarily the gasses that make up smoke, in a structure. This violent and deadly condition is a firefighter killer!

A flashover develops rapidly with little warning and can catch firefighters off guard. Flashovers occur when the contents of a structure are heated to its ignition temperatures. At that point everything in the room, including the smoke, "flashes" almost all at once and continues burning over all surfaces. This deadly process can develop in as little as 90 seconds and with little warning. When flashover occurs flames break out from wall to wall and ceiling to floor. Any firefighter inside has only seconds to recognize and escape the structure before being killed or critically injured. In most cases, firefighters do not live to tell their account of experiencing a flashover.



Photo Courtesy of FireTactics.com

Flashover exposure has increased for today's modern firefighter. With better personal protective equipment (PPE), the firefighter is going deeper and closer to the fire. Better PPE allows firefighters to get further and closer to the fire without getting burned but, the dangers of this gear can conceal one of the warning signs, high heat. Flashover exposure has increased due to better insulation in our homes and buildings. The insulation holds in the high heat, and combined with highly combustible modern furnishings, plastics, synthetics and polycarbonate, you have a flashover environment.

(See YouTube house fire flashover video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btSQ2tYOelo>)

A firefighter must also know the "point of no return." A firefighter can travel 2.5 feet a second without a hose and has two seconds to exit when a flashover occurs. Escape is possible if five feet from an exit! If the firefighter is caught in a flashover, even with his gear on, he will be severely burned if he survives at all.

The Oakland Community College (OCC) program teaches firefighters the recognition of an imminent flashover and flashover delay techniques so they can have those few extra seconds to retreat to a safe haven. This safe haven might be as simple as closing the door to the fire room or to crawl across the hall to another room and shut the door. The nozzle technique taught can be used by any fire department anywhere in the world but must be practiced and the signs of the flashover must be recognized in a training environment.

The program starts with 2.5 hours of mandatory classroom training before students are allowed in the flashover training unit. The classroom training includes flashover variables, flashover development and flashover versus backdraft and survival techniques along with a safety program about OCC training container. Before container training begins, every student receives a tour and is shown where they will sit, how to rotate, where the instructors will be and all exits, and receives nozzle training.

The unit is a 40-foot trailer built by Swede Survival Systems Inc. The "can" as it is called by the instructors, is essentially a laboratory where fire behavior can be observed three feet below the fire floor. Instructors can demonstrate basic fire behavior using Class A combustible (particle board). The fire is not influenced by artificial or individual factors and is the most cost effective, realistic training system available. Key points of the system include the incipient phase of the fire, fire growth, smoke production, high and low pressures zones, thermal feedback, rollover and flashover. The students are shown, and can practice under fire conditions, nozzle techniques that can be utilized in an interior setting. There are multiple evolutions before the fuel load is depleted. The container is an excellent defensive training system that will provide firefighters hands-on training in a safe and controlled setting. By creating these conditions over and over again, fire department personnel are provided with the knowledge and skills to deal with a flashover situation.

Once inside, the fire is started and the students can watch the fire grow from the beginning phase all the way to flashover. The students use the techniques learned in the classroom and what they practiced on the drill ground inside. They see how the fire grows, observe the warning signs of a flashover and now they use the technique to cool the atmosphere, and the walls and ceiling to delay the flashover to give them time to retreat to that safe haven. The instructors are inside to guide the students and to point out different "events" that are happening while the fire is developing. The student is inside the container between 25 to 30 minutes. Once outside, the students go to rehab with the instructors who answer any questions they might have and discuss what they have seen.

Oakland Community College Fire Training has had a flashover training unit for more than 10 years. We are in our sixth year with our mobile unit. We have traveled the state giving this life-saving training. Just to name a few of the cities we have provided training to: Dearborn, Southfield, Westland, West Bloomfield, Traverse City, Petoskey, Dearborn Heights, Canton, Benton Harbor, Jackson, Bay County, Bridgeport and now we are putting all our fire academy students through the course. We are the only mobile flashover unit in Michigan using Class A materials. Since July 2009, we have trained at 25 departments with 2,230 firefighters going through our flashover unit.

We have two known documented cases that after taking our course, firefighters have seen the warning signs of an imminent flashover and have retreated to a safe haven. In both cases a flashover did take place just after the firefighters reached safety. In our view, this training is a critical component in saving firefighters from serious burn injuries or death caused by flashovers.

About the Authors:

Robert A. Elizondo is the program manager Fire/ EMS Emergency Services Department at Oakland Community College. Bill Cockerline is the flashover coordinator at Oakland Community College. For more information about the Flashover Training Program at OCC, call 248-232-4093.

Mom, 3 kids Escape Apartment Fire

Smoke detectors alerted them

Updated: Monday, 08 Aug 2011, 3:39 PM EDT

Published: Monday, 08 Aug 2011, 10:07 AM EDT

By Ryan Takeo



GRANDVILLE, Mich. (WOOD) - Firefighters say an overheated fan started a blaze inside a Grandville apartment Monday morning.

Smoke detectors alerted a woman and her three children, who all escaped unhurt.

Melissa Rowe, her 8- and 13-year-old sons, and 7-year-old daughter were sleeping when the alarms sounded around 7:45 a.m.

"I thought it was all a dream at first, 'cause I just heard the alarm, and my mom came out and got us," 13-year-old Anthony Clark told 24 Hour News

8. "It was really scary, but we're lucky we had fire alarms."

See WOOD TV video: http://www.woodtv.com/dpp/news/local/kent_county/grandville-apartment-fire

Firefighters arrived at the Hamilton Park Apartments at 2864 Locke Ave. SW and quickly extinguished the flames. Damage was mostly to one bedroom.

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A fighting chance: Otsego firefighter awarded Bronze Medal at World Police and Fire Games

Published: Sunday, August 21, 2011, 2:00 PM

By Chris Fusciardi | Kalamazoo Gazette

To access this story about Volunteer Assistant Chief Kyle Baker, Otsego Fire Department, please follow the link below:

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/08/a_fighting_chance_otsego_firef.html

State Fire Marshal's Note-Congratulations to Kyle Baker for his taking Third Place in the competition and bringing home the Bronze medal!



NFIRS News

NFIRS Reporting Summary

The Bureau of Fire Services, as mandated by Public Act 207 of 1941, as amended, collects all fire incidents from the fire departments in the state of Michigan. The fire reports are then released to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) through the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) uses this system to track department reporting which is a requirement for fire departments to apply for federal fire grants for their departments. The information is also used to produce fire codes, public education and plays a major role in reducing injuries and fatalities due to fire emergencies. The Michigan statistics reported in NFIRS for the past five years for civilian and fire fighter fatalities and injuries are as follows:

Year	Civilian Fatalities	Civilian Injuries	Fire Fighter Fatalities	Fire Fighter Injuries
2006	139	727	1	618
2007	145	749	3	573
2008	158	670	2	536
2009	164	756	1	546
2010	138	602	1	641

2010 Fire Department Reporting Activity

Below is a link to a document reflecting reporting activity for all departments in the state of Michigan. Please take a look and check out your department's reporting activity. Is it what you expected? If you have questions, please contact Rhonda Howard at (517) 241-0691 or howardr2@michigan.gov.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg/Non-Reporting_FDs2010_346754_7.pdf

NFIRS Account Passwords

NFIRS account passwords now automatically deactivate if you have not logged into the system within **45 days** of the last login, rather than 60 days as it was previously.

A user will begin receiving a notification via email message seven days before the date of expiration. The message is sent each day until the account is accessed, or the account is locked on the date of expiration. The purpose of email is to remind the user to take action before the account expires.

Please ensure that the email listed on your NFIRS account is accurate. For questions regarding your NFIRS account, please contact Rhonda Howard at howardr2@michigan.gov or (517) 241-0691.

Reminder to Submit NFIRS Reports Online

As of January 1, 2008, the Bureau of Fire Services no longer accepts paper reports. The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is available online and the Bureau of Fire Services requests that all fire departments enter these reports using this online system. If you need assistance in setting up this program please contact Rhonda Howard (contact information is listed below).

Fatal Fire Reporting

In addition to the basic NFIRS report, the Bureau of Fire Services also tracks all fire-related deaths. These statistics are used for program development, legislation, and prevention programs. Fire departments responding to a fatal fire are required to submit the "Michigan Fatal Fire Report" within 24 to 48 hours of the death. The report form is available at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dleg_bccfs_fatalrep_94417_7.pdf

Civilian Fatal Fire Statistics 2010

2010 – Reported as of September 28, 2011

January	19	July	9
February	16	August	5
March	15	September	7
April	14	October	16
May	6	November	3
June	5	December	8

Civilian Fatal Fire Statistics 2011

2011 – Reported as of September 28, 2011

January	18
February	7
March	11
April	10
May	6
June	0
July	2
August	0

Questions?

If you have questions regarding your department, NFIRS reporting functions or fatal fire reporting, please contact Rhonda Howard at (517) 241-0691 or howardr2@michigan.gov.

NFIRS Reporting in Michigan for 2011

MICHIGAN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Michigan's Fire Prevention Code **mandates** local fire chiefs to report any fire resulting in loss of life or property to the Bureau of Fire Services. Michigan has adopted NFIRS 5.0 as the reporting standard, a computerized reporting system. **A 2011 Activity Report for all fire departments, including reporting and non-reporting is now available on our website at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/2011_Non-Reporting_FDs_359741_7.pdf http://www.michigan.gov/dleg/0,1607,7-154-28077_42271_42321---,00.html under the statistics section.** If a fire department has no activity during a given month, they are required to submit a "No Activity" report.

Fire Departments who are not participating in NFIRS 5.0 will not receive federal grant funding or training funding provided through the Federal Emergency Management Administration. In addition to jeopardizing federal dollars, fire department employees are not eligible for specialized training provided through the Michigan State Police.

Fire reporting plays a major role in reducing injuries, fatalities, and economic losses from fire and related emergencies. Fire codes, public fire education, and legislative actions are all driven by fire loss statistics. Complete and accurate data is essential to effective solutions to many of our fire problems.

Michigan Fire Service Directory

PLEASE check your department's E-MAIL address in the directory. The Bureau has noticed that a lot of the email addresses are not up to date. The online directory can be found at: http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/fire_directory/. **Please note that the directory is updated quarterly. Changes to department contact information may not be reflected in the directory immediately.**

Below is information on how to obtain the form to update your department's information in the directory. You may submit the form by fax to (517) 335-4061, e-mail to howardr2@michigan.gov, or mail to Bureau of Fire Services, Attn: Rhonda Howard, PO Box 30700, Lansing, MI 48909. Thank you in advance for your help to keep the most accurate information in the directory.

Fire Service Directory Update Form:

You may locate the form on our website at www.michigan.gov/bfs, click on Forms and Publications, the form will be listed under the section called "Forms Listing."

Office of Fire Fighter Training



News and Notes from the OFFT

By Joseph A. Grutza, Director, Office of Fire Fighter Training



State Fire Marshal Announces County Funding for FY 2012

The Office of Fire Fighter Training county funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 (*October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012*) has been approved by State Fire Marshal Ronald Farr. The “FY 2012 County Training Allocations” schedule is listed below. The designated amounts were determined using the modified formula described in Public Act 291 of 1966, as amended. At the August 9, 2011, Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council meeting, the State Fire Marshal and Council approved a minimum allocation of \$2,250 for each county.

County Training Committee Chairpersons are required to survey the training needs of each organized fire departments in their county. Each CTC should allocate the funds received as prioritized by the departments in their county. (Please note: Although the county has the authority to distribute the funds, priority must be given to the basic fire fighter courses that are specified in the Act.) All county funds must be approved through the Information Management System by the county training committee chairperson and by the region supervisor.

Courses may be conducted anytime between October 1, 2011, and September 30, 2012. County training allocations must be encumbered (committed for a specific course) by **January 1, 2012**.

The Hazardous Materials Training fund for fiscal year 2012 has not been announced. The OFFT will notify the county training committees once a decision is made.

Counties will be allowed to combine their FY 2012 allocations with neighboring counties in an effort to maximize efficiency in responding to training needs. It is the responsibility of the CTC chairperson to make the necessary inquiries and obtain approval from neighboring counties. The counties should contact their region supervisor to coordinate their efforts and to assure that Office of Fire Fighter Training procedures are followed.

Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council Meeting Information

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING & REGULATORY AFFAIRS Schedule of Meetings/Hearings

2011 MFFTC Meeting Schedule

Bureau/Commission/Office:	Bureau of Fire Services
Board/Council/Commission:	Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council
Address: 525 W. Allegan Street, 4th Floor	Telephone: (517) 241-8847
City: Lansing	Michigan Zip Code: 48933
Contact Person: Joseph Grutza	Date: July 8,, 2011

X	Regular Meeting		Special Meeting		Rescheduled Meeting
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DATE	TIME	LOCATION
October 21	1:30 p.m.	REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING: Park Place Hotel; 300 E. State Street; Traverse City, MI 49684
December 13		Both the Work Session & the Regular Business Meeting are open to the public.
	10:00 a.m.	WORK SESSION: Constitution Hall; 525 W. Allegan Street; Hutchinson Conference Room (Lower/Atrium South Level); Lansing, MI 48913
	1:30 p.m.	REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING: Constitution Hall; 525 W. Allegan Street; Hutchinson Conference Room (Lower/Atrium South Level); Lansing, MI 48913

The meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Individuals attending the meeting are requested to refrain from using scented personal care products, in order to enhance accessibility for everyone. People with disabilities requiring additional accommodations in order to participate in the meeting should contact Joe Grutza at (517) 241-8847 at least 10 work days before the event. The Division on Deaf & Hard of Hearing will provide assistance in locating assistive listening devices or interpreters, with advance notice, at (517) 373-1837.

The above is provided pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of Act 267 of Public Acts of 1976, being Sections 15.264 and 15.265 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

MFFTC Meeting Hits the Road in October

The Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council will be moving their October regular meeting out of Lansing. The meeting will be held in Traverse City in conjunction with the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association conference. The regular MFFTC meeting will be held on Friday, October 21 at 1:30 pm at the Park Place Hotel. The hotel is located at 300 E. State Street, Traverse City, MI, 49684.

The MFFTC meeting is only part of an excellent MFSI conference scheduled for that weekend. Go to www.mfsia.com and sign up to take advantage of the many excellent training programs being presented.

Thoughts on September 11, 2001

By

Joseph A. Grutza

Director, Office of Fire Fighter Training

On the 10th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Bureau of Fire Services and the Office of Fire Fighter Training had the privilege of speaking at numerous commemorations that were held throughout our state. I would like to suspend our monthly OFFT article and pass along some thoughts we shared that day.

We all remember where we were that day and how we reacted. The assault on our nation shook us to our roots. It changed the way we lived then and it has changed the way we live today. We are a more cautious America, more on guard, and we continue to struggle to maintain the freedoms that the terrorists were determined to take away.

And every September 11, we pause, reflect, and pay our respects to those who lost their lives in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

While we remember those we lost, we rejoice for those who survived, nearly 15,000 saved from the world trade center alone. Many of these saves were due to the brave men and women, who without hesitation, responded to the call of duty.

We have all seen many images of that fateful day. One of the lasting images in my mind is a still picture of a fire fighter, climbing the stairs at the World Trade Center. He is charging forward, passing hundreds of people as they flee for the exit. The look on his face and in his eyes will last with me forever.

In that picture, I saw apprehension, not fear; the apprehension from the battle within his inner soul telling him to get out with everyone else while still moving forward.

I saw determination, not fear; the determination to answer the call for help, knowing that if he didn't, no one else would.

I saw confidence, not fear; the confidence he had gained from the experience and training which prepared him for what he was about to face.

I saw love, not fear; the love of his community, his neighbors and his friends. This is why he was there. This was the profession he had chosen.

I don't know whether that fire fighter made it out in time to save his life. It saddens me because I'm pretty sure that with the look on his face, he wasn't turning back. I guess it is not meant for me to know. Rather, perhaps he represents all the fire fighters, those who survived and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. They are all equally true heroes in my mind.

So as we move into another year, with the memories of that day still in our hearts, I pray that none of you will face the horror that our fire fighters faced on September 11, 2001. But I do know, you have and will face incidents in the future, where people will be running out and you will be charging in. Like this young man, you will press forward, with apprehension, determination, confidence and love.

So on behalf of State Fire Marshal Ron Farr and all of us who work for the Bureau of Fire Services, as you respond to each call, please be safe. We thank you for what you do every day. Like the young fire fighter in the picture, you are our heroes.

News from the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association

The mission of the Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association is to obtain better education, provide information, establish continuity, promote fire safety, form lasting bonds, create a good atmosphere and promote professionalism in the fire service.

Each year in October the association holds their annual conference in Traverse City. This year's conference will be held October 20, 21, and 22, 2011 in Traverse City at the Park Place Hotel.

Please help the association recognize the best instructors in your area by nominating them for Instructor of the Year!

Each year we ask for nominations from our membership for the MFSIA Instructor of the Year. The nominees are from all five regions of Michigan and from this select group, the MFSIA Instructor of the Year is selected. Winners are also selected as Regional Instructor of the Year. Individuals receiving this award need not be a member of the MFSIA.

The 2011 Regional winners will also be awarded a one year MFSIA membership

Nomination forms and further information is available on our website at www.mfsia.com

Other News... CPSC Completes Final Studies to Help Affected Homeowners Remediate Problem Drywall

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today released updated [remediation](#) (pdf) guidance for homeowners with problem drywall. The guidance calls for the replacement of all: problem drywall; smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms; electrical distribution components, including receptacles, switches and circuit breakers, but not necessarily wiring; and fusible-type fire sprinkler heads.

The updated remediation guidance is based on studies just completed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on potential long term corrosion effects of problem drywall on select [gas components](#) (pdf), [fire sprinkler heads](#) (pdf) and [smoke alarms](#) (pdf).

CPSC and HUD staffs believe these final studies that resulted in an update of the remediation guidance, along with previously-issued [identification guidance](#) (pdf), will enable homeowners to comprehensively remediate those homes containing problem drywall with potentially lower costs than by following the previous remediation guidance.

Key Findings

The key finding is that none of the studies performed at NIST on smoke alarms, fire sprinkler heads, or gas service piping found corrosion associated with problem drywall that provided evidence of a substantial product safety hazard, as defined by the Consumer Product Safety Act. Corrosion of gas service piping was uniform and minimal compared to the thickness of pipes. Some smoke alarms and fire sprinkler heads showed small changes in performance due to accelerated corrosion, but these changes were generally within accepted industry standards.

As a result, CPSC and HUD no longer recommend the removal of gas service piping in homes with problem drywall. This change may reduce the cost of remediation for many homes. In addition, the agencies no longer recommend that glass bulb fire sprinkler heads be replaced in homes. However, the agencies recommend that both glass bulb sprinkler heads and gas distribution piping in affected homes be inspected and tested as part of the remediation to make sure they are working properly; any test failures should be corrected according to all applicable building codes.

The agencies do recommend the replacement of all fusible-type fire sprinkler heads, because one fusible-type sprinkler head sample that had been exposed to accelerated corrosion did not activate when tested. The agencies note that this type of sprinkler head is generally found in commercial, rather than residential, applications and that the sole failure could not be causally linked to the problem drywall.

In addition, CPSC staff continues to recommend that homeowners replace smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms as part of remediation.

Exhaustive Investigation

CPSC's investigation into problem drywall to help affected homeowners began in early 2009 and involved significant agency resources. CPSC's investigation of problem drywall has been driven by sound science and has involved HUD, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as members of the Federal Interagency Task Force on Problem Drywall.

CPSC and HUD met with deeply-impacted homeowners, responded to correspondence, and kept members of Congress informed about our progress during this time period.

CPSC developed contracts to research and test problem drywall, visited Chinese mines and manufacturers hosted a public website to keep the public informed about new developments, and devoted thousands of staff hours and millions of dollars to these activities.

As part of the effort to determine if there were any health or safety effects associated with problem drywall, the agency contracted with several highly-respected technical organizations, including Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), Environmental Health & Engineering Inc. (EH&E), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), NIST, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

LBNL used specially-built chambers to measure chemical emissions from drywall samples. In the second phase of its work, which is being released today, [LBNL](#) (pdf) evaluated the effects of different temperature and humidity conditions, as well as the effects of time and coatings of paint or plaster, on the emissions. A [prior LBNL](#) (pdf) study found considerably higher hydrogen sulfide emission rates from some, but not all, Chinese drywall samples compared to North American samples. The current LBNL study found that increases in temperature and humidity corresponded with increased emission rates of the most reactive sulfur gases, that emissions were significantly reduced over time (compared with its prior testing), and that coating the problem drywall samples did not result in differences in emissions compared to uncoated samples.

EH&E conducted CPSC's [51-home study](#) (pdf) on emissions and corrosion in problem drywall homes. The studies identified elevated levels of hydrogen sulfide in problem drywall homes. The studies also showed a strong association between the presence of hydrogen sulfide and metal corrosion in the problem drywall homes.

SNL exposed smoke alarms, electrical components, gas piping, and sprinkler heads to concentrated levels of gases representative of problem drywall emissions, to simulate decades of exposure. SNL analyzed the effects of corrosion on the electrical components and found no degradation in performance and no acute safety events during testing.

NIST analyzed the type and depth of corrosion resulting from the simulated aging, as well as other samples taken from homes with problem drywall, and evaluated whether the corrosion would impact the proper functioning of smoke alarms, gas distribution piping, and fire sprinklers.

Another study being released today, that was conducted by the [USGS](#) (pdf), found no evidence of microbiological activity or a microbiological source of sulfur-gas emissions from gypsum rock or problem drywall, including samples taken from affected homes.

As part of the investigation, CPSC requested that CDC consider undertaking a comprehensive study of any possible long-term health effects. In February 2011, CDC indicated that the best scientific evidence available at that time did not support undertaking a long-term health study.

Concluding Our Investigation

To date, CPSC has received 3,905 reports from residents of 42 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico, who believe their health symptoms or the corrosion of certain metal components in their homes are related to problem drywall. CPSC believes there may be as many as 6,300 U.S. homes with problem drywall.

CPSC has been focused on providing answers and guidance for homeowners based on its scientific work, and other federal agencies have worked to provide relief to homeowners. For example, based on information provided by CPSC, the [IRS](#) allows certain impacted taxpayers whose homes meet the CPSC's problem drywall identification criteria to treat damages from corrosive drywall as a casualty loss, and provides a "safe harbor" formula for determining the amount of the loss. In addition, [HUD](#) advised its Federal Housing Administration-approved mortgage lenders that they may offer forbearance for borrowers confronted with the sudden effects of damaging drywall in their homes.

Going forward, CPSC staff continues to work with voluntary standards organizations to develop improved standards for drywall to prevent this type of problem from reemerging. The standard setting body ASTM International Inc. is also moving to require that all drywall sheets are marked with the manufacturer's name or a unique identification code, the manufacture date, and the source materials.

As the federal investigation into problem drywall concludes, CPSC staff believes that the extensive research and testing have been successful in defining the scope of the problem drywall issue, in producing identification and remediation protocols, and in providing homeowners with all the assistance possible within the agency's jurisdiction and appropriated funds authority. The agency will continue to provide information to and work with members of Congress and agency partners to support policy options that may be beneficial to impacted homeowners.

For additional findings from the Interagency Drywall Task Force investigation, visit www.DrywallResponse.gov

CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

HUD Media Contact: (202) 708-0685

Recall Alert

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Communications

Washington, D.C.

September 16, 2011

Alert #11-752

John Deere Recalls Lawn Tractors Powered by Kawasaki Engines Due to Overheating and Fire Hazards

The following product safety recall was voluntarily conducted by the firm in cooperation with the CPSC. Consumers should stop using the product immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

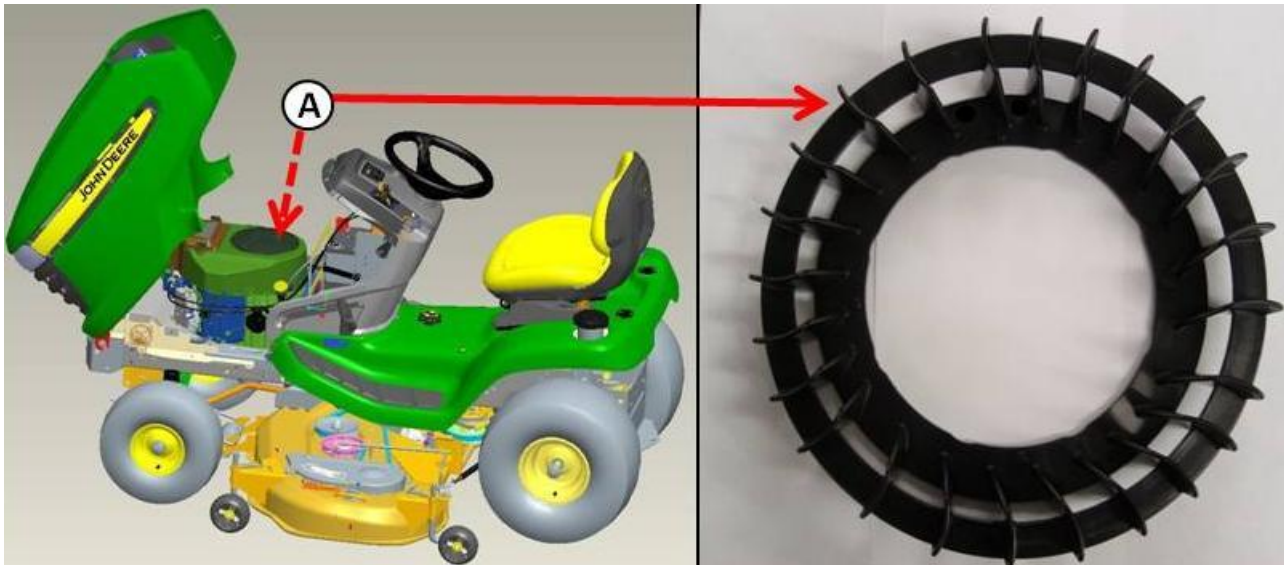
Name of Product: John Deere X300, X300R and X304 series tractors

Units: About 36,500 tractors

Manufacturer of Tractors: Deere & Company, of Moline, Ill.

Manufacturer of Engines: Kawasaki Motors Corp., USA of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Hazard: The cooling fan (A) installed on top of the front mounted Kawasaki engine in the lawn tractor can break. If the cooling fan is not operational, the engine can overheat causing the surrounding plastic to melt, creating the risk of fire and serious injury.



Incidents/Injuries: There have been 163 reported failures, including 83 reports of engine melting or engine fires and one report of a minor burn injury following a fan failure fire.

Description: This recall involves John Deere X300, X300R and X304 Select Series™ Lawn Tractors with Kawasaki FS541V engines manufactured between September 20, 2010 and July 21, 2011 within the following serial number ranges listed below. The model number is on both sides of the tractor hood, and the serial number can be found on the machine frame near the front right tire.

1M0X300B++M180001 thru 1M0X300B++M180600
1M0X300C++M180001 thru 1M0X300C++M208330
1M0X300E++M180001 thru 1M0X300E++M180718
1M0X300F++M180001 thru 1M0X300F++M180888
1M0X300G++M180001 thru 1M0X300G++M183700
1M0X300H++M180001 thru 1M0X300H++M180145
1M0X300J++M180001 thru 1M0X300J++M180106
1M0X304A++M180001 thru 1M0X304A++M184936
1M0X304B++M180001 thru 1M0X304B++M180696
1M0X304C++M180001 thru 1M0X304C++M180054

Sold at: Nationwide at John Deere dealers in the U.S. from September 2010 to August 2011 for between about \$3,000 and \$4,000.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Customers should stop using the mowers immediately and contact a John Deere dealer to make arrangements to have the engine cooling fan replaced. All registered owners of the recalled mowers will be directly notified by John Deere.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Deere & Company at (800) 537-8233 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays ET or visit the firm's Web site at www.johndeere.com

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about your experience with the product on www.saferproducts.gov

CPSC is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of the thousands of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries, and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$900 billion annually. CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed to a decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

Under federal law, it is illegal to attempt to sell or resell this or any other recalled product.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, go online to: www.saferproducts.gov, call CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772 or teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270 for the hearing impaired. Consumers can obtain this news release and product safety information at www.cpsc.gov. To join a free e-mail subscription list, please go to <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>.

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Thanks to all of you for the continued articles, information, photos and comments – your input is important. Any questions regarding the Bureau of Fire Services newsletter may be directed to Terry Fobbs, Ph.D. at (517) 373-8331 or fobbst@michigan.gov

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